RESTORE the Mississippi River Delta: An NGO collaborative

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
July 2013
Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign

National
- Environmental Defense Fund
- National Audubon Society
- National Wildlife Federation

Louisiana
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Partners:
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Ocean Conservancy
- Oxfam America
- Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Restore the Mississippi River Delta

Reconnecting the River to its Delta to protect people, wildlife and jobs
Goals:

- **Implement Restoration Plan**: Enforce the Realization Implementation of a Mississippi River Delta restoration plan which will incorporate a multi-disciplinary, science-based, comprehensive approach with both federal and state buy-in.

- **Governance**: Enhance the effectiveness of governance over restoration of the Mississippi River Delta to ensure implementation of coastal restoration and risk reduction.

- **Funding**: By 2017, $5 billion will be identified and committed to restoration of coastal Louisiana and non-structural solutions as outlined in the State Coastal Master Plan.

- **Expand what is possible**: Expand the understanding of what is scientifically possible and expand what is politically possible for the Mississippi River Delta.
Where we work, what we do

State Policy and Advocacy

Regional Policy

Building a National Constituency

National Policy and Advocacy

State Policy and Advocacy

www.mississippiriverdelta.org  fb.me/MississippiRiverDelta  @RestoreDelta
2012 Coastal Master Plan
Keystone of the 2012 Master Plan: Reconnecting the River to its Dying Delta
Grounded in Science…

Decision Criteria and Ecosystem Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Reduction</th>
<th>Oyster</th>
<th>Shrimp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expected Annual Damages</td>
<td>Freshwater Availability</td>
<td>Alligator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution of flood risk across socioeconomic groups</td>
<td>Waterfowl</td>
<td>Saltwater Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood protection of historic properties</td>
<td>Saltwater Fisheries</td>
<td>Freshwater Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood protection of strategic assets</td>
<td>Carbon Sequestration</td>
<td>Agriculture/Aquaculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation and maintenance costs</td>
<td>Nitrogen Removal</td>
<td>Other Coastal Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Use of natural processes</td>
<td>Nature-Based Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for navigation</td>
<td>Support for cultural heritage</td>
<td>Support for oil &amp; gas</td>
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Using New Tools, Breaking New Ground

Ecohydrology

Wetland Morphology

Vegetation

Ecosystem Services

Barrier Shoreline Morphology

Storm Surge/Waves

Risk Assessment
What was the role RESTORE the Mississippi River Delta?

- Informing process
- Technical/Scientific input on projects
- Providing stakeholder input
- Advocacy for getting it passed
- Advocacy for funding
- Public awareness and support
Informing process

Framework Development Team
Technical/Scientific input on projects

- Bathymetry and River Modeling

Myrtle Grove Diversion Alignment

USACE Alignment

Modified Alignment
Providing stakeholder input

Turn-out at Public Meetings.
Advocacy for getting it passed

Polling

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is presenting to the legislature a master plan containing a prioritized list of projects and activities to build new land and maintain the land we already have in Louisiana’s coastal areas and wetlands and to reduce hurricane flood risk in coastal Louisiana. The projects will be paid for from the state’s dedicated coastal protection and restoration fund, not from general state revenues. Do you want your legislator to vote for or against that plan?

- **All**: 36 for, 2 against, 10 undecided
- **Coastal**: 89 for, 2 against, 6 undecided
- **Non-coastal**: 84 for, 2 against, 12 undecided

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Advocacy for funding

- National campaign to secure money (fines) from BP oil spill:
  - RESTORE Act
  - Criminal penalties (National Fish & Wildlife Foundation)
  - Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)
Public awareness and support

- Online, social media, traditional media
Recap:

- NGO Collaborative
- Working in Louisiana and across the Country
- Focus *was* on crafting & passing Coastal Master Plan
- Focus *is now* on implementing Plan
- Campaign implements plan through:
  - Science
  - Policy input at state and federal level
  - Outreach and communications